

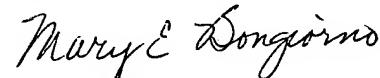
**Remarks/Arguments**

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application is requested. Claims 1-18 are in the case.

Claims 1-18 have been provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-20 of copending application no. 10/378,996. The Examiner argued that although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other. The Examiner stated that this is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

Enclosed is a Terminal Disclaimer that obviates the provisional double patenting rejection.

Respectfully submitted,



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